

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 13, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 1-49 were cited as being subject to a restriction requirement. Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 27-39 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-26 and 40-49 remain at issue in the patent application. Of those remaining at issue, claims 1, 40, 46, and 48 are independent claims. Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

**I) RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-26 and 40-49 were restricted to group 1; and claims 27-39 were restricted to group 2.

In response to the restriction requirement in the present Office Action, Applicant hereby elects to go forward with group 1 claims, claims 1-26, and 40-49 without traverse.

Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 27-39 in group 2 without prejudice, in order to comply with the restriction requirement. Claims 27-39 have been cancelled for reasons unrelated to patentability.

**II) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS**

Applicant has filed a number of information disclosure statements electronically using the EPAVE system. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the information disclosure statements filed electronically on 09/19/2002, 09/20/2002, 09/23/2002, 09/24/2002, 05/07/2003, and 05/15/2003.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the information disclosure statement filed with the references by U.S. Mail on 09/19/2002 and 12/12/2002.

Applicant apologizes in advance for the numerous references cited in the IDSs.

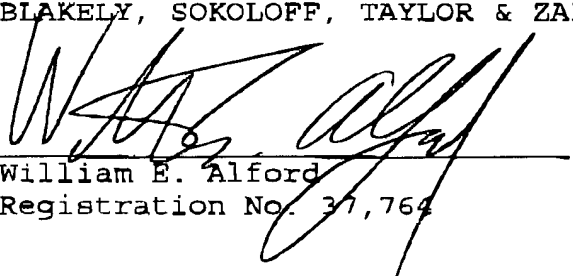
CONCLUSION

A first examination as to the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

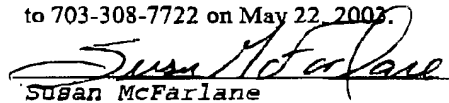
Dated: May 22, 2003

  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
transmitted via facsimile under 37 CFR § 1.8  
to 703-308-7722 on May 22, 2003.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan McFarlane  
Date 5/22/03

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